Establishment of Milk cooperatives

453. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to establish milk cooperatives on Anand pattern in other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas identified to establish such milk cooperatives in each State; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to monitor so that the high quality of milk is produced and provided to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Under Operation Flood 23 States/Union Territories are covered for establishing Milk Producers' Cooperatives in the country. Till September, 1994, 68,896 Anand Pattern milk cooperatives were formed with 87.8 lakh farmer members in 170 milksheds covering 267 districts. By the end of Operation Flood-III project there will be 70000 Anand Pattern Cooperatives through out the country. All the potential districts of the country have already been covered and no new district/State has been identified under Operation Flood.

(c) Quality of milk is monitored under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Industry Status to Agriculture

454. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to grant the status of an industry to agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is likely to benefit the farmers;

(c) the details of steps taken in this regard and the progress made so far; and

(d) if not, the time by when the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution prepared by the Government seeks to create a positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry. The objective is to develop effective systems and bestow similar benefits on agriculture as exist in industry. This would help in creating favourable economic climate for increasing farmers' own investments and efforts for development of agriculture, thereby increasing their income levels.

The Resolution was placed in Parliament on 14.5.93.

Guarding the interests of small fishermen

455. SHRI E[illegible]ARI BARIK Will the Mini[illegible]GRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken by Government to guard the interests of small fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thertof; and

(c) the guidelines issued to the State Governments and coast guards in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the steps taken to protect the interests of small-scale fishermen include:

(i) enactment of Marine Fisheries Regulation Act (MFRA) by some of the maritime States, on the basis of a model bill circulated by the Government of India for protecting the interests of the traditional fishermen and conservation and management of coastal marine fisheries

(ii) enactment of Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by